

Offenders Help Indiana Kids Appreciate American History

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Commissioner J. David Donahue



Commissioner J. David Donahue Joins Kids at Conner Prairie

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Indiana, Indiana - (March 13, 2007) - Today, Commissioner J. David Donahue joined kids at the Conner Prairie Farm Museum Shop to share the importance of American History by authentic costumes made by offenders located at Rockville Correctional Facility.

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Correctional Facility are proud to have crafted these historic costumes for the boys and girls of Indiana to wear," said Commissioner Donahue.

Indiana fourth and fifth graders participate in Pioneer Week annually learning about the early days in Indiana's history. The school children are encouraged to dress in costume during Pioneer Week. Many schools visit Conner Prairie Farm, the living history museum, to learn about life in early Indiana.

"PEN Products provides offenders with meaningful jobs while incarcerated, teaching marketable skills which is a key element in the re-entry process." commented Michael Herron, PEN Products Director.

"By wearing the early American clothes, children are better able to imagine themselves in the past," said Ellen Rosenthal, Conner Prairie President and CEO. "Conner Prairie is delighted with the success of the partnership with PEN Products as it enables us to fulfill the many requests we receive from parents, grandparents and schools looking for historic outfits for children."

The costumes sewn by offenders are available at the Conner Prairie Museum Shop and also on available on-line: [Conner Prairie Museum Shop Online](#).

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The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.